

HOUSE BILL 1170

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By: **Delegates Gutierrez, Pena–Melnik, Ali, Barkley, Carr, Carter, Feldman, Frick, Gaines, Hixson, Hucker, Lee, Mizeur, Montgomery, Ramirez, Reznik, Rice, Simmons, Taylor, F. Turner, Valderrama, Vallario, and Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2010

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Consumer Protection – Prepaid International Calling Cards – Notice of**
3 **Expiration**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from selling or issuing a prepaid
5 international calling card that is subject to expiration unless the date on which
6 the prepaid international calling card expires is disclosed in a certain manner;
7 providing that a violation of this Act is an unfair or deceptive trade practice
8 under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act and is subject to certain
9 enforcement and penalty provisions; and generally relating to prepaid
10 international calling cards.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Commercial Law
13 Section 13–301(14)(xxiii)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Commercial Law
18 Section 14–1322
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Commercial Law**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 13-301.

2 Unfair or deceptive trade practices include any:

3 (14) Violation of a provision of:

4 (xxiii) Section 14-1319 [or], § 14-1320, OR § 14-1322 of this
5 article;

6 14-1322.

7 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "PREPAID INTERNATIONAL CALLING CARD"
8 MEANS A CARD OR SIMILAR DEVICE THAT:

9 (1) IS SOLD OR ISSUED BY A PERSON FOR CASH VALUE; AND

10 (2) PROVIDES THE USER WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF
11 INTERNATIONAL LONG DISTANCE SERVICE.

12 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT SELL OR ISSUE A PREPAID INTERNATIONAL
13 CALLING CARD THAT IS SUBJECT TO EXPIRATION UNLESS THE DATE ON WHICH
14 THE PREPAID INTERNATIONAL CALLING CARD EXPIRES IS PRINTED IN AT LEAST
15 10 POINT TYPE IN A VISIBLE PLACE ON:

16 (1) THE FRONT OR BACK OF THE PREPAID INTERNATIONAL
17 CALLING CARD; OR

18 (2) A STICKER PERMANENTLY AFFIXED TO THE PREPAID
19 INTERNATIONAL CALLING CARD.

20 (C) A VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION:

21 (1) IS AN UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICE WITHIN THE
22 MEANING OF TITLE 13 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND

23 (2) IS SUBJECT TO THE ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY
24 PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN TITLE 13 OF THIS ARTICLE.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2010.